

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Enclosed herein are Replacement Sheets of formal drawing Figures 1, 3A-3C, 4 and 6A wherein line labels and cross-hatching have been corrected.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 4, 7-9, 13 and 16-18 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner for being directed to non-elected subject matter. By this Amendment, Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-12 and 14-15 are amended. As support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the originally filed application, such as, for example, Figures 1-3B, and remaining amendments to the claims are made merely for cosmetic purposes, Applicants respectfully submit no new matter is presented herein.

**Election/Restrictions**

The Office Action notes Applicants elected, without traverse, Species A, Figures 1-3B, directed to Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-12 and 14-15 in the Response dated June 24, 2005. However, the Office Action then states that Claims 4, 7-9, 13 and 16-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected species, which Applicants agree with, and that there is no allowable generic or linking claim, which Applicants do not agree with. In particular, Applicants note the June 24 Response pointed out that Claims 1-2 and 10-11 are generic to all four (4) species identified in the Office Action dated May 25, 2005. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the application contains pending generic claims, that upon being deemed allowable and depending on any amendments made thereto, rejoinder of the non-elected claims is requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

**Drawings**

The Office Action objects to the drawings for informalities contained therein. Enclosed herein is a Replacement Sheet of formal drawing Figures 1, 3A-C, 4 and 6A, wherein Figure 1 has been amended to correct section line label "A" to "2A"; Figures

3A-C and 4 have corrected the cross-hatching for the rubber stopper (30); and Figure 6A has corrected the section line label from "B" to "6B" and the cross hatching for the rubber bushing (60). Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### **Specification**

The Specification is objected to for informalities contained therein. The Specification has been amended herein to be responsive to the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Objections**

The claims are objected to for informalities therein. The claims have been amended herein to be responsive to the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended responsive to the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-210713 to Orihashi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 10 recite a stabilizer including a torsion portion extending in a width direction of a vehicle; arm portions extending in a forward or backward direction from opposite end portions of the torsion portion; straight portions provided proximate to the opposite end portions of the torsion portion, the straight portions extending along an axial direction thereof; end portions of the arm portions, the end portions of the arm

portions being mounted to the vehicle, and the straight portions being mounted to the vehicle via bushes; and a stopper provided to one of the straight portions, the stopper preventing one of the straight portions from moving more than a predetermined distance in an axial direction with respect to one of the bushes, which is provided to one of the straight portions.

As noted above, the claimed invention includes a stopper that is provided to one of the straight portions and prevents one of the straight portions from moving beyond or more than a predetermined distance in an axial direction with respect to one of the bushes which is provided to one of the straight portions.

Orihashi does not disclose or suggest such a straight portion. Rather, as admitted by the Office Action, Orihashi clearly discloses the straight portions extending parallel to (i.e., not coaxial with) the central torsion portion. See Figure 1 of Orihashi. As can be seen, in Orihashi, stoppers are provided to both of the straight portions. The required bending of the Orihashi stabilizer requires an additional manufacturing step to provide the bend between the torsion portion and the straight portions since they are not provided on the same or common axis.

Sideslip distance of a stabilizer depends on the distance between the stopper and a bush, wherein the allowable range (i.e., control width) of the distance between the stopper and the bush is determined beforehand as a design distance. For example, to assist the Examiner's understanding, a Reference Figure is attached hereto, which illustrates a case in which the allowable range D of the distance is set to 2 mm as described in paragraph [0006] in the "Background Of The Invention" section of the instant application, since the distance between the bushes are generally set to about

500 to 1000 mm, the allowable rate is  $0/2\%$  ( $=100 \times 2(\text{mm})/1000(\text{mm})$ ) and is thereby very small.

As shown in the Reference Figure, bushes 211 and 212 are held by stoppers 221 and 222, as is also disclosed in Orihashi. It is assumed that a left portion 221L of the left stopper 221 is fixed 2 mm apart from a predetermined position thereof on the stabilizer 200 toward the left direction, and a right portion 221R of the left stopper 221 is fixed 2 mm apart from a predetermined position thereof on the stabilizer 200 toward the left direction. In this case, even if a left portion 222L of the right stopper 222 is fixed to a predetermined position thereof on the stabilizer 200, when the stabilizer 200 is mounted to the vehicle V, the left portion 222L of the right stopper 222 is substantially short, that is 2 mm, which is the limit of the allowable range D, apart from the mounting position T2 of the stabilizer 200 on the vehicle V toward the left direction due to the above position shift of the left stopper 221 with respect to the stabilizer 200.

As described above, in Orihashi, the position shift of one of the stoppers influences on the allowable range of the distance between another of the stoppers and another of the bushes, so that the allowable range of the distance becomes substantially short. Due to this, it is difficult to control the allowable range of the distance. In particular, the problem is serious since the allowable range of the distances is very short in comparison with the distance between the bushes. Due to this, when the stabilizer is mounted to the vehicle via the bushes, Orihashi cannot cope with the unevenness in mounting positions of the stoppers on the stabilizer. On the other hand, there is unevenness in mounting positions of the bushes on the vehicle. In this case, since the allowable range of the distance is very short as described above, when the

stabilizer is mounted to the vehicle via the bushes, Orihashi cannot cope with the unevenness in mounting positions of the bushes on the vehicle. Since the allowable range of the distance cannot be small, sideslip distance of the stabilizer with respect to the vehicle is rather large.

With respect to the claimed invention of the instant application, because the stopper on the stabilizer holds one of the bushes, it is easy to control the allowable range of the distance between the stopper and one of the bushes. In a case where another of the bushes is mounted to the vehicle, another of the bushes can be slid to a predetermined mounting position thereof on the vehicle. Therefore, even if the allowable range of the distance is small, the present invention is able to cope with unevenness in mounting positions of the stoppers on the stabilizer and unevenness in mounting positions of the bushes on the vehicle. As a result, it is easy to mount the stabilizer to the vehicle. Because the allowable range of the distance can be small, the sideslip distance of the stabilizer is relatively small.

As explained above, Orihashi fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claims 1 and 10 and also fails to provide the benefits flowing therefrom.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each feature of a rejected claim. As noted above, Orihashi does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of Claims 1 and 10. As such, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated, nor rendered obvious in view of, Orihashi and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-3 and 5-6 depend from Claim 1. Claims 11-12 and 14-15 depend from Claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable

for at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 10 are allowable as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, rejoinder of Claims 4, 7-9 and 16-18, allowance of the Claims 1-18, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 108421-00077.**

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures: Replacement Sheets of Formal Drawing Figures 1, 3A-C, 4 and 6A  
Reference Figure  
Petition for Extension of Time

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